



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes****December 15, 2007**

Hello Friends,

As 2007 draws to a close, **I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many people**, including each of you, for a wonderful year. I have been fortunate to represent the fine people of the **30th Assembly District** for five years now. I gratefully welcome every call and visit I receive, whether in the District or in Sacramento.

Together, we have succeeded on a number of our legislative victories. But I am even more thankful to have the opportunity to meet you, share your concerns and hopes, and be able to represent you in the Capitol. I am touched by your genuine commitment and determination in improving the lives of our families, our neighbors, and our communities in Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties.

Many of you have also had the chance to work with my fine staff in the Sacramento, Hanford, and Bakersfield offices. I thank my staff for doing such a terrific job all year long and providing the high quality of service my constituents deserve.

Finally, I want to thank my family, friends and each of you for your continued support and friendship. **I wish you the warmest of Holiday Seasons, and look forward to achieving many more accomplishments with you in 2008! Happy New Year!**

Look for the next edition of the Parra Notes on January 15, 2008...

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What's Happening in Sacramento

As we are all painfully aware, the **mortgage crisis** has struck our citizens, our communities, and our local and state coffers. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, nearly 180,000 California homes will be lost to foreclosure from the 826,900 sub-prime loans made in 2005-2006 alone. California could lose nearly \$3 billion in property tax revenue and another \$1 billion in sales and transfer tax revenue.

Recently, the Assembly embarked on some major steps to address the mortgage crisis. The Democratic package institutes a number of important reforms, including: Identifying at-risk

borrowers and determining what lenders have done to assist them; banning prepayment penalties that essentially prevent borrowers from refinancing; ending incentives and kickbacks that spur lenders to push sub-prime loans onto prime-qualified buyers; increasing counseling that can protect consumers from bad loans and help them find potential avenues for keeping their homes; and toughening income verification regulations and requiring lenders to consider an applicants ability to repay over the life of a loan. <http://adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/MortgageCrisis>

My Legislative Highlights

On December 5th, I had a very important meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger and senior staff to discuss the importance of the **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**. I thanked the Governor for creating the Partnership via executive order and urged him to support my legislation, **AB 27**, to place the Partnership in statute. I conveyed the advantages of placing the Partnership in law for a 10-year duration, creating an impetus for continual funding and ensuring the Partnership can carry out their strategic proposal to improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents. www.sjvpartnership.org

I have introduced AB 1110 with the intent to establish clear minimum program standards for wards committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA). These standards will help to insure that wards committed to the department are provided with appropriate services to give them a far better chance to succeed upon release from the CYA. By doing so, the public is best protected from future criminal behavior. At the same time, helping these wards avoid a future crime career will significantly reduce state and local costs. Any costs of providing the services mandated by the bill will be more than recovered if recidivism is only slightly reduced as a result of the services mandated by AB 1110. With more than 2,000 youthful offenders released annually from the California Youth Authority, and a 91% recidivism rate among CYA parolees, our juvenile justice agency needs to more effectively rehabilitate our young offenders.

I was thrilled to join **Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)** at their 18th Annual Awards Dinner. Once a year HOPE Board members, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and supporters take a few hours on a special evening to celebrate the accomplishments and the progress of Latinas throughout the state, and the nation. www.latinas.org

Constituents Visit Sacramento

Applications for the **2008-2009 Capitol Fellows Program** are now available. These programs are comprised of 18 Assembly Fellows, 18 Senate Fellows, 18 Executive Fellows and 10 Judicial Administration Fellows. Fellows receive an outstanding opportunity to engage in public service and prepare for future careers, while actively contributing to the development and implementation of public policy in California. The ranks of former fellows and associates include a Justice of the California Supreme Court, members of the United States Congress and the State Legislature, a deputy director of the Peace Corps, corporate executives, and local government and community leaders. For more information, visit: www.csus.edu/calst/programs

In the District

I enjoyed a rewarding day of passing out toys to kids throughout **Kern County** at the annual **Parra Foundation Holiday Toy Giveaway**. I was joined by volunteers from many organizations including East High School, Girl Scout Troop 101 and others in distributing over 5,000 toys. During the Holiday Season, it is always a good reminder that it truly is better to give... than receive.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov

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